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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: YABU, Takayuki, et al.

Serial No.: 09/648,632

Corres. and Mail
BOX AF

Group Art Unit: 2828

Filed: August 28, 2000

Examiner: JACKSON, Cornelius H

FOR: DISCHARGE ELECTRODES CONNECTING STRUCTURE FOR LASER APPARATUS AND LASER APPARATUS THEREWITH

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116
- EXPEDITED RESPONSE -
GROUP ART UNIT 2828

RECEIVED
AUG - 2 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER
9# / Amended
8/7/02
July 31, 2002
10/10/02

BOX AF

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 7, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1 and 2 as follows:

- A/ sub 1/*
1. (Amended) A discharge electrodes connecting structure for a laser apparatus comprising:
a pair of anode and cathode provided within a laser chamber for sealing a laser gas in an opposing manner, generating a discharge so as to excite a laser gas flowing therebetween and oscillating a laser beam;
a conductive anode base holding the anode;
an insulative cathode base holding the cathode;
a return plate electrically connecting the anode base to said laser chamber so as to supply a